This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition having sustained release of fluvastatin following ingestion, said composition comprising a water-soluble salt of fluvastatin as active ingredient and ~~a polymeric matrix formulation comprising at least one polymeric matrix material~~ at least one matrix material for film formation said composition being selected from the group consisting of matrix formulation, diffusion controlled ~~membrane~~ coated formulation or a combination thereof.

2. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble salt of fluvastatin is the sodium salt.

3. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the matrix formulation is an eroding matrix formulation.

4. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3 wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, paraffin or a combination thereof.

5. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the matrix formulation is a noneroding matrix formulation.

6. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein the at least one matrix material comprises xanthan, polyvinyl chloride or a combination thereof.

7-11. (canceled)

12. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition having sustained release of fluvastatin following ingestion, the composition comprising a water-soluble salt of fluvastatin as active ingredient and a polymeric matrix formulation comprising at least one polymeric matrix material.

13. (canceled)

14. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the mammal is a human.

15. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material is a single matrix material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose and paraffin.

16. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material is a single matrix material selected from the group consisting of xanthan and polyvinyl chloride.

17. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises a polysaccharide polymer matrix material.

18. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises a cellulose derivative polymer matrix material.

19. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises a synthetic polymer matrix material selected from the group consisting of an acrylate, a polyamide, a polyanhydride, a PEO-PPO block-co-polymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, a polyethylene, a polyethylene glycol, a co-polymer of a polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, a co-polymer of polyethylene oxide, a polypropylene, a co-polymer of a polypropylene, a polystyrene, a polyester, a co-polymer of a polyester, a resin, a polycarbonate, cellophane, a silicone, a polyurethane, and a synthetic rubber.

20. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises a shellac, a wax, nylon, a stearate, a lipid or paraffin.

21. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 18-20, wherein the polymeric matrix formulations consists of two polymeric matrix materials.

22. (withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 18-20, wherein the polymeric matrix formulations consists of one polymeric matrix material.

23. (withdrawn) A method for obtaining a fluvastatin preparation that affords sustained release following ingestion, without the use of large amounts of slow-release excipients and/or an osmotic-pressure-controlled formulation, which comprises formulating a water-soluble salt of fluvastatin with a polymeric matrix formulation comprising at least one polymeric matrix material.

24. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein the water-soluble salt of fluvastatin is the sodium salt.

25. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 23 or 24, wherein the polymeric matrix formulation is an eroding matrix formulation.

26. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 25, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises polyethylene oxide, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, paraffin or a combination thereof.

27. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 23 or 24, wherein the polymeric matrix formulation is a noneroding matrix formulation.

28. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein the at least one polymeric matrix material comprises xanthan, polyvinyl chloride or a combination thereof.

29. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical preparation affording sustained release of fluvastatin following ingestion, prepared according to the method of claim 23.